

Worship on September 19, 2021

Order of worship

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Call to worship
- Praise song – Lord I Lift Your Name On High
- Prayer for worship + Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance

We Listen

- Prayer for illumination
- Scripture: Daniel 3:1-30
- Sermon: Choose, Commit, and Change
- The Lord's Table

We Respond

- Offering – There Is None Like You

We Serve

- Benediction

Ponder Upon Questions

Announcements:

. Welcome! Grace and peace to you all who are worshipping God with us live right now. This is Sunday, September 19th, 2021. We chose to worship God and we are here to commit our time. May all of us experience changes in our lives from above.

. Session's decided that in-person worship will resume on the first Sunday of October. (Oct. 3rd). The detailed guideline will be announced in following weeks.

. There is Bible study after worship. Please stay for sharing lives, thoughts, and prayer for each other.

. Worship volunteers are always welcome.

. Thank you for your support with your gifts. God may use our gifts and us for this world and our community.

As we come into the presence of our God, let us calm down our hearts and minds, and focus on our Lord.

Responsive Call to Worship

One: From sunrise to sunset,

All: Let us praise God's holy name.

One: With the wisdom of the aged and the energy of the young,

All: Let us praise God's holy name.

One: In our work and in our homes,

All: Let us praise God's holy name.

One: Let us praise the Lord with our whole hearts!

All: We will worship God now and always.

Praise song – Lord I Lift Your Name On High

Lord, I Lift your Name On High

G C2 D C C/D
Lord, I lift Your name on high
G C2 D C
Lord, I love to sing Your praises
G C D C C/D
I'm so glad You're in my life
G C Dsus D C/D D
I'm so glad You came to save us

G C D C G
You came from heaven to earth -to show the way
C D C G
From the earth to the cross - My debt to pay
Am7 D
From the cross to the grave
Em7 G/B Am7
From the grave to the sky
Dsus D C/D G
Lord, I lift Your name on high

Prayer For Adoration and Confession

God of all creation, you have opened the world around us and filled it with purpose.
Each creature declares your praise— the mountain states your majesty; the ripened field, your generosity. Birds flying aloft sing of your freedom; the tiny ant works with your persistence.
But what do we declare about you in our lives, O God?
We pray that our work will honour your justice and mercy.
May our relationships speak of your love and compassion.
So may we praise you, O God, not just in this hour of worship
but in all the hours you grant us, as we follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and our Friend.

God of all creation, you have opened the world around us and filled it with wonder,
but we confess our eyes are not always open to its harsher realities.
Our ears are sometimes deaf to cries of need. Our minds are often shut to opinions which differ from our own. Forgive us when we seek greatness instead of goodness. Forgive us when we miss the wisdom you intend us to embrace.

This time we come to you in prayer that you taught us how to pray: (The Lord's Prayer:)
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Sisters and brothers in Christ at St. Andrew's, The prophet Micah reminds us that God requires of us three things: **to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.**

To all who truly repent and seek reconciliation with God and neighbour in kindness and humility, God offers forgiveness and peace. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Prayer for Illumination:

Send us your Holy Spirit, O God, so that your Word will shed light on the path ahead. Help us understand the way we should follow. May your wisdom bear fruit in us so that we may bear your light into the world around us.

Scripture: Daniel 3:1-30

1 King Nebuchadnezzar made a gold statue ninety feet tall and nine feet wide and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. 2 Then he sent messages to the high officers, officials, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates, and all the provincial officials to come to the dedication of the statue he had set up. 3 So all these officials came and stood before the statue King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

4 Then a herald shouted out, "People of all races and nations and languages, listen to the king's command! 5 When you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes, and other musical instruments, bow to the ground to worship King Nebuchadnezzar's gold statue. 6 Anyone who refuses to obey will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace."

7 So at the sound of the musical instruments, all the people, whatever their race or nation or language, bowed to the ground and worshiped the gold statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

8 But some of the astrologers went to the king and informed on the Jews. 9 They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "Long live the king! 10 You issued a decree requiring all the people to bow down and worship the gold statue when they hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes, and other musical instruments. 11 That decree also states that those who refuse to obey must be thrown into a blazing furnace. 12 But there are some Jews—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—whom you have put in charge of the province of Babylon. They pay no attention to you, Your Majesty. They refuse to serve your gods and do not worship the gold statue you have set up."

13 Then Nebuchadnezzar flew into a rage and ordered that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought before him. When they were brought in, 14 Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you refuse to serve my gods or to worship the gold statue I have set up? 15 I will give you one more chance to bow down and worship the statue I have made when you hear the sound of the musical instruments. But if you refuse, you will be thrown immediately into the blazing furnace. And then what god will be able to rescue you from my power?"

16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you. 17 If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty. 18 But even if he doesn't, we want to make it clear to you, Your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up."

19 Nebuchadnezzar was so furious with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face became distorted with rage. He commanded that the furnace be heated seven times hotter than usual. 20 Then he ordered some of the strongest men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. 21 So they tied them up and threw them into the furnace, fully dressed in their pants, turbans, robes, and other garments. 22 And because the king, in his anger, had demanded such a hot fire in the furnace, the flames killed the soldiers as

they threw the three men in. 23 So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, securely tied, fell into the roaring flames.

24 But suddenly, Nebuchadnezzar jumped up in amazement and exclaimed to his advisers, “Didn’t we tie up three men and throw them into the furnace?”

“Yes, Your Majesty, we certainly did,” they replied.

25 “Look!” Nebuchadnezzar shouted. “I see four men, unbound, walking around in the fire unharmed! And the fourth looks like a god!”

26 Then Nebuchadnezzar came as close as he could to the door of the flaming furnace and shouted: “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!”

So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stepped out of the fire. 27 Then the high officers, officials, governors, and advisers crowded around them and saw that the fire had not touched them. Not a hair on their heads was singed, and their clothing was not scorched. They didn’t even smell of smoke!

28 Then Nebuchadnezzar said, “Praise to the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! He sent his angel to rescue his servants who trusted in him. They defied the king’s command and were willing to die rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. 29 Therefore, I make this decree: If any people, whatever their race or nation or language, speak a word against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, they will be torn limb from limb, and their houses will be turned into heaps of rubble. There is no other god who can rescue like this!”

30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to even higher positions in the province of Babylon.

“This is the word of the Lord / Thanks be to God.”

SERMON: Choose, Commit, and Change.

Today’s sermon title is “Choose, Commit, and Change.”

Today’s passage is one story. Daniel’s friends did not obey the king’s decree that all people must worship the gigantic statue. They chose not to obey this statue because they committed their lives to God. They knew that their choice will bring them trouble. Yet, because of their commitment to the God of the whole universe, they were ready to take any consequences. King Nebuchadnezzar became very angry when he found out that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego violated his own mandate. As the result, king Nebuchadnezzar threw them into a furnace with blazing fire. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego fell into the roaring flames.

IS THIS ALL? IS THIS THE END?? NO!!

24 But suddenly, Nebuchadnezzar jumped up in amazement and exclaimed to his advisers, “Didn’t we tie up three men and throw them into the furnace?”

“Yes, Your Majesty, we certainly did,” they replied.

25 “Look!” Nebuchadnezzar shouted. “I see four men, unbound, walking around in the fire unharmed! And the fourth looks like a god!”

26 Then Nebuchadnezzar came as close as he could to the door of the flaming furnace and shouted: “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!”

So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stepped out of the fire.

What an amazing experience! What a big change they brought to the king!

Because our passage is the whole chapter and pretty long, I will try to keep the sermon short.

As Christ followers, we all want to grow up. But, sadly, millions of Christians are not growing spiritually. They are stuck in endless infancy. Why? They never decide. They never choose Christ-like decisions. We become what we are committed to. To what are we committed?

What have we chosen? Didn't we choose God? Didn't we choose Christ?

If you are here listening to this message, you chose to worship God. You chose to come to the presence of our Father God.

Then, what we are to do is to commit ourselves. Another name of Christ followers is disciples. Are we disciples of Jesus? YES WE ARE. BUT, do we live like disciples of Jesus? What we lack is our commitment. What we need is to decide to become a disciple.

Shadrack, Meshack, and Abednego chose God. They were forced to choose king, but to them, God was more valuable and more important. In other words, they disobeyed the king because they committed their lives to God. They knew they were endangering their lives. But, nothing could make their commitment turn away from God. They valued God more than the king's order. Even though this means that they may lose their own lives.

DO WE HAVE THIS KIND OF COMMITMENT?

Or do we know anyone with this kind of commitment to God?

Who is today's Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?

Today, the world worries church. There is no distinction between world and church. Christ followers are not different from those who do not care about truth. WHY? Because we have no commitment on what we chose. That is why our characters are not becoming like Christ. This is why we are not experiencing change. This is why we are not able to make the change in this world.

We do want to experience change. Choose Christ, Commit yourself to Christ. Then, Christ will change us.

Also, we do want to make changes in this world. Choose Christ. Commit yourself to Christ. Then, Christ will change the world through us.

Let us pray.

God of love and grace, Father God, we chose you. We chose truth and we chose the most important value in the whole universe. You chose us first, that's why we are able to confess our desire to know you and to trust you. Thank you, Holy Spirit.

When we read stories like this, many times, we cannot relate ourselves to it. Our lives seem too far from the works of your mighty hands. Alas! Too sad, that we have the most precious and the most powerful, but we are stuck with our own values. Open our eyes so we can see your great works which is beyond us. Help us commit our lives to you, so we may experience your presence and power and miracles. Lord, we need your help. Come into us, Holy Spirit, and lead our lives. In Jesus' precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

The Lord's Table THIS is time for the Lord's Table.

In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, I invite all who want to come into the presence of God.

God did not spare his most precious for us. He gave up his own Son, Jesus Christ for us. He gave his only Son Jesus Christ to pay the price of our death. We now have life because the price of our death is paid by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Come to the Table of the Lord and taste His goodness.

(Great Prayer of Thanksgiving:) **(Please say BOLD print together)**

L: The Lord be with you. **P: And also, with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts. **P: We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

L: Gracious and loving Father God, it is our greatest calling and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise. You created the heaven with all its hosts and the earth with all its plenty. You have given us life and being, and preserve us by your providence. But you have shown us the fullness of your love in sending your son into the world. Jesus Christ brought your Kingdom into the world by the salvation works on the cross. For this precious gift of his mighty Saviour who has reconciled us to you, **we lift our hearts in joyful praise.**

(Sanctus) Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of Your glory, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

L: Most righteous God, we remember in this Communion the perfect sacrifice offered once on the cross by our Lord Jesus Christ for the sin of the whole world. In the joy of his resurrection and in expectation of his coming again, we offer ourselves to you as holy and living sacrifices. Together **we proclaim the mystery of faith:**

P: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

L: Send your Holy Spirit upon us, we pray, that the bread which we break may be to us the communion of the body and blood of Christ. Grant that, being joined together in Jesus Christ, we may attain to the unity of the faith and grow up in all things into him Christ our Lord.

And now through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, and with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship and adore you, now and forever. Amen.

Breaking of the BREAD and Pouring the WINE

Take, eat, remember, and believe that the precious body of our Lord Jesus Christ was given for the complete forgiveness of all our sins. (BREAD)

“This is the body of Christ, broken for you.” (Let us take it)

Take, drink, remember, and believe that the precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ was shed for the complete forgiveness of all our sins. (CUP)

“This is the blood of Christ, poured out for you.” (Let us drink it)

Prayer after Communion:

Father God, at this time, let us now bow down before you with humble hearts. We celebrated your presence among through the broken body of yours and the blood you poured out for us. Father God, help us see our reality and rely upon you alone. We give you all our thanks and praise, O God. Be lifted and be glorified through our lives. Let us long for your glory. Your name is holy and most important. It is more valuable than our lives. It is more precious than our loves ones. Let us love and cherish Your name with all our hearts.

We remember how much love poured upon us through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. We will remember what kind of love we have been receiving every time we come to the Table. Also, precious God, we pray for the unity in your church. We are the church and we are called to

display your goodness to the world. Let us be one heart, praising you and worshiping you in one spirit. We need you, Lord.

We pray for our congregation. There are ups and downs in our lives. We have hard times. We experience sufferings. Through all these difficulties, may we come close to you. Mold us and shape us, so we can be used for your purposes in the right timing. Prepare us. We want to become your followers. We want to become your disciples. Hold our hands and lead our steps. Protect us safely in this time from corona virus. Make us strong in our body and in our souls. Let us be connected together and support each other.

Help us find out our own special gifts from you. So we are able to work for your kingdom. We are yours and you are our only hope and confidence. In Jesus' precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the offering: This is the time for offering. The Letter of James invites us to show gentleness born of God's wisdom through our good works. The gifts we offer to God support many good works through our congregation and the work Presbyterians undertake together around the world. May they bear much fruit in Jesus' name. Let us pray for our offering.

Offering prayer:

Wise and faithful God, we offer our gifts to you in thanksgiving for your gifts to us in Christ and in creation. Bless these gifts and the good works in ministry and mission they will support, so that the world may know your wisdom and faithfulness through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Praise song – There Is None Like You

There Is None Like You

Lenny LeBlanc

Key - G | Tempo - 69 | Time - 4/4

CHORUS

G D/F# C/E G/D
There is none like You
C G/B Am7 Am7/D D
No one else can touch my heart like You do
G D/F# Dm/F C/E
I could search for all e - ternity long
G/D C/D D G
And find there is none like You

TURNAROUND

| Em C2 | G/D . Dsus D |

VERSE

Cmaj7 C/D G Em7
Your mercy flows like a river wide
Am7 D2/F# G G2/B
And healing comes from Your hands
Cmaj7 C/D G Em7
Suffering children are safe in Your arms
Am C/G D/F# C2/E D
There is none like You

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world. There is none like our God. Choose him in your daily lives. Commit your life to him, so you may experience his work in your life and his presence. So, you become change to your surroundings. God may be glorified through your life.

Benediction

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, And the Love of God, And the intimate fellowship of the Holy Spirit, Be with us all, now and always. Amen.

Ponder Upon Questions:

1. What is one area where I need to stop thinking my way and start thinking God's way?
2. What are some of the changes I have seen in my own life since I became a believer?
What have others noticed?
3. A year from now, how would I like to be more Christlike? What can I do today to move toward that goal?